

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Agricultural Commissioner	(2) MEETING DATE 4/22/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Brenda Ouwerkerk 805.781.1556	
(4) SUBJECT Presentation of the 2013 Annual Agricultural Statistics for San Luis Obispo County. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board receive and file the 2013 Annual Agricultural Statistics for San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 minutes</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Lisa M. Howe			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Agricultural Commissioner / Martin Settevendemie
805.781.5913

DATE: 4/22/2014

SUBJECT: Presentation of the 2013 Annual Agricultural Statistics for San Luis Obispo County. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board receive and file the 2013 Annual Agricultural Statistics for San Luis Obispo County.

DISCUSSION

The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer will present your Board a summary of crop and livestock statistics and trends from 2013 for production levels and value.

The agricultural industry in San Luis Obispo County continues to be a major contributor to the county's prosperous economy. Despite unusual weather conditions, 2013 was a record-breaking year for agriculture with overall crop values of \$960,710,000, an increase of nearly 11% compared to 2012 values. This figure represents only commodity gross values, and does not include costs that affect profit margins or any overall economic benefit resulting from the contributions of a strong local agricultural industry.

For 2013, the top ten commodities ranked in descending order by value were: wine grapes, strawberries, cattle and calves, broccoli, avocados, vegetable transplants, cut flowers, indoor decorative plants, cauliflower, napa cabbage. Wine grapes regained the number one value ranking in 2013. Overall, total production increased 10% compared to 2012. Favorable growing conditions, strong prices, high production levels and high demand for San Luis Obispo County wine grapes resulted in an overall value of over \$220 million.

The strawberry industry remained strong in 2013. The total value of strawberries was over \$210 million. Over 128,000 tons of berries were hand-picked from over 3,000 acres. Mild weather conditions and limited rainfall resulted in high yields.

During 2013, the number of cattle grazing the drought parched hillsides was dramatically reduced. The continued dry conditions, lack of available grass for grazing, and the high cost of supplemental feed caused producers to sell off livestock. This will lead to long-term effects, as it will take producers several years to rebuild herds. Due to greater numbers of cattle going to market, the production for 2013 was valued at over \$96 million, an increase of 39% compared to 2012. The total production for the animal sector was valued over \$100 million, a 37% increase over 2012.

Fairly mild winter weather conditions during 2013 had a favorable effect on broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, bok choy, and cabbage production. Overall, the value for all vegetables combined increased 16% over 2012 to over \$237 million. The demand for produce grown in San Luis Obispo County remained high and prices were strong due to poor growing conditions caused by the drought throughout the central portion of the state. Despite variable weather conditions, avocado yields were at near record levels. Total production for avocados increased by 79% over 2012 levels. Prices also held strong resulting in a value of over \$44 million.

The nursery industry remained relatively stable with an overall value of over \$97 million. Cut flower production increased, resulting in a 3% increase in value for this nursery category overall. The ongoing drought negatively affected field grown flower seed production.

Drought conditions in 2013 also negatively affected field crops such as barley and grain hay resulting in fewer acres planted and decreased yields or planted fields left unharvested due to lack of growth. Overall, the combined value of field crops was 34% below 2012.

Agriculture continued to be a significant economic contributor in 2013 and represents a central component of the quality of life, not only for local citizens, but for consumers around the world. Despite challenging drought conditions and unusual weather during 2013, values reached record-breaking levels, which is a testament to the perseverance of the local agricultural producers.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

None

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this update.

RESULTS

The statistics will help to inform your Board and the public about the total gross value of agriculture in San Luis Obispo County.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment A - 2013 Final Agricultural Statistics.